

Governor's Water Augmentation Council

February 10, 2017

Meeting Summary

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Location: Arizona Department of Water Resources

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Chairman Tom Buschatzke called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Council members introduced themselves individually. Chairman Buschatzke recognized Arizona Senator Lisa Otondo.

Chairman Buschatzke highlighted Senate Concurrent Resolution 1008 which recognizes Council Member Rick Lavis who passed away on November 26, 2016.

Chairman Buschatzke also brought attention to House Joint Resolution 2002 which is related to a potential Minute with Mexico. He stated that Minute 32X holds many good benefits for state of Arizona and added that fifteen organizations had signed in support of HJR 2002.

Committee Reports

Desalination Committee

Bob Lotts, Chairman of the Desalination Committee, reviewed the committee's tour of the Yuma Desalination Plant, and its third meeting at the Bureau of Reclamation Yuma Office. A table showing the areas identified as locations for potential brackish water desalination projects was provided to the Council. The full report for the committee can be found from the Arizona Water Initiative homepage or by clicking on the link below:

http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona_Water_Initiative/documents/DesalinationCommitteeReport.pdf

The table of the potential brackish water desalination project areas can be accessed using the link below:

http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona_Water_Initiative/images/Capture.JPG

Council member Bas Aja recommended that the Desalination Committee engage with local stakeholders for each of the identified project areas to ensure that the project evaluation process moves forward as smoothly as possible.

Recycled Water Committee

John Kmiec, Chairman of the Recycled Water Committee, reviewed the committee's task of assessing the current status of reclaimed water recommendations that were identified in the Blue Ribbon Panel

on Water Supply Sustainability Report, as well as the impediments and opportunities for new reclaimed water projects across Arizona. Two meetings have been held since the committee's inception, and had consisted of several presentations regarding recycled water use. The summary of these meetings can be accessed from the Arizona Water Initiative home page or by using the link below:

http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona_Water_Initiative/documents/RecycledWaterCommitteeReport.pdf

Chairman Buschatzke inquired into the type of deliverable(s) that the Committee would present to the Council and when.

Chairman Kmiec replied that as the rules regarding recycled water are reexamined, the Committee would assist in the addressing of the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel, as well as the removal of the prohibition on direct potable reuse in any way that it can.

Chairman Buschatzke also asked if those concerned with the use of environmental water sources participated on the committee.

Chairman Kmiec confirmed that representatives from The Nature Conservancy have been present during past meetings, but the mentioned concern has not been heard from stakeholders directly.

Council Member Patrick Graham added that The Nature Conservancy has been in discussions with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality ADEQ regarding possible rule changes that allow for the use of recycled water for environmental purposes.

Council Member Maureen George expressed concerns regarding the diverting of recycled water away from industrial uses if a prohibition on direct potable reuse was lifted.

[Long-term Augmentation Committee](#)

Maureen George, Chairwoman of the Long-term Augmentation Committee, spoke of the tasks that the Committee has undertaken including taking another look at the water demand quantities found in the Water Resources Development Commission report. Those quantities, she stated, were considered quite optimistic, and require new data from a variety of sources for a more accurate assessment. Those sources will speak at the next committee meeting on March 3rd. Chairwoman George noted that the Committee has the goal of creating an outline for a Request For Proposal (RFP) which will call for information that results in a water demand and supply matrix that applies to specific regions within the state, as well as a cost per acre-foot for specific projects to augment water supplies. A summary of Chairwoman George's report may be found by click on the link below:

http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona_Water_Initiative/documents/LongTermAugmentationCommitteeReport.pdf

Chairman Buschatzke offered the financial assistance of ADWR should an RFP be proposed.

Finance Committee

Sandy Fabritz, Chairwoman of the Finance Committee, was not present but asked that Chairman Buschatzke remind the Council that the next meeting for the committee will be held on February 16th at ADWR from 1pm to 3pm.

Arizona Corporation Commission Discussion

Doug Dunham, the Legislative Liaison and Ombudsman for the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), gave a presentation on the Water Emergency Team “WET” which has the primary mission to provide a coordinated state response and information sharing platform during water system emergencies. Its secondary goal is to provide a forum for a long-term multi agency effort to address water systems that are chronically out of compliance or have severe distribution problems. Mr. Dunham’s presentation can be viewed on the Arizona Water Initiative webpage by clicking on the [link](#) below:

http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona_Water_Initiative/documents/2-10-17AugmentationCouncilWETpresentation.pdf

Water Loss Prevention Efforts Update

Gerry Walker, Deputy Assistant Director of the Water Planning and Permitting Division at ADWR, provided an update on the American Water Works Association’s (AWWA) M36 Water Loss program. ADWR has reached out to and partnered with the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) to identify Community Water Systems (CWS) outside of the Active Management Areas (AMAs) that are above a 10% water loss and assist them in achieving a loss of less than 10% through a piloted water loss prevention program. The M36 manual details the industry’s best water loss auditing software and accounting practices. CWS’ will also receive training on how to incorporate these practices by determining the magnitude of losses, the source of the losses, and actions that could be taken to address them. WIFA has pledged to provide \$100,000 to finance the pilot through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Technical Assistance set-aside and ADWR has committed \$25,000 from the Rural Water Studies line item of their budget. The RFP for this program closed on January 12, 2017, and a contractor will be identified by the end of March. Six to eight systems will be considered for the program.

Closing Remarks and Next Meeting

Council member Dave Brown inquired into the legislative statute that authorized ADWR and the State Land Department to conduct a study on five dam sites.

Doug Dunham clarified that they are reservoir storage sites that are located above and below ground. ADWR is developing a series of maps depicting generic hydrogeology of the underground and above ground storage. It was requested that the results of the study be presented to the Council at a future meeting.

The next GWAC meeting will be held Friday, April 7, 2017 at 10:00am at the Arizona Department of Water Resources, 1110 W. Washington, Suite 310, Phoenix, AZ 85007.